

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8. (canceled).

9. (previously presented): A method for treating a herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus, consisting essentially of administering MMP-7 to the affected site of the herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus.

10. (previously presented): A method for treating a herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus, consisting of administering MMP-7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier to the affected site of the herniated disc or herniated nucleus pulposus.